



May 18, 2017

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: **Ex parte filing** in WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 16-271 and WC Docket No. 08-71 and CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 16, Steve Merriam from Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC) and the undersigned from GVNW Consulting, Inc. (GVNW) conducted an *ex parte* meeting with Amy Bender from Commissioner O'Rielly's office. On May 17, we subsequently conducted separate *ex parte* meetings with Dr. Jay Schwarz from Chairman Pai's office and with Claude Aiken from Commissioner Clyburn's office.

These *ex parte* meetings consisted of a discussion of the challenges for Alaska rural areas, given the unique geography and climate, road infrastructure, and lack of population density in rural Alaska. The four main areas of discussion are as follows:

First, we reviewed the status of the pending waiver application for ASTAC's wireless operations. We shared information on public safety issues created by the upcoming changes to rural wireless support and the extreme construction and maintenance challenges in the harsh Arctic environment.

Second, we shared highlights of ASTAC's progress toward meeting the important Alaska Plan performance obligations and reporting issues related to that progress.

Third, current challenges concerning rights of way and easement issues in tribal areas were reviewed. Fourth, middle mile issues were also discussed.

As required by the Commission's rules, this *ex parte* record is now filed in the above referenced dockets. If there are any questions, please call me on 503.612.4409.

Respectfully submitted,

Via ECFS 5/18/17

Jeffry H. Smith  
President and CEO

Copy to:  
Steve Merriam  
Amy Bender  
Dr. Jay Schwarz  
Claude Aiken